

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 13-20, 22-34, 42-45, 47-51 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 13, and 49 are independent. Claims 2 and 52 have been canceled, without prejudice.

Allowable subject matter

We appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 49 and 51 are allowed.

Furthermore, we appreciate the Examiner indication that claims 2, 4, 13, 16, 20, 23, 24, 28-32, 34, 44, 45, 48, and 50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While we do not concede the merits of the Examiner's rejections, in order to expedite allowance, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form, both because it is indicated as reciting allowable subject matter and because it addresses the objection in the action relating to its prior dependence on cancelled claim 11. Claims 14-16 have been amended to depend from claim 13. Claim 24 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

As result, all of the independent claims are allowed or recite subject matter indicated as being allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, we ask that the application be allowed.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Any circumstance in which Applicants have: (a) addressed certain comments of the Examiner does not mean that Applicants concede other comments of the Examiner; (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims; or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that Applicants concede any of the Examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

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Page : 11 of 11

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No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account
06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12406-0147US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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